

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

A 1. A method for controlling audio content during a multiparty communication session, comprising:

5 prompting active participants of a multiparty communication session to identify themselves; and

10 disabling media from a particular device from which no active participant is identified to terminate communication of the media from the particular device to other devices in the multiparty communication session.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising prompting the active participants to identify themselves a response to at least a request from one of the participants.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising authenticating the request.

20 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein authenticating the request comprises authenticating the participant making the request.

25 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising disabling media from each device from which no active participant is identified.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the disabled media comprises on-hold content.

30 7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving a response from at least one active participant via a dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) command.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising utilizing adaptive speech recognition to identify responses from active participants.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising filtering out responses from the active participants to prevent communication of the responses to the other devices in the multiparty session.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising periodically playing to the particular device for which the media is disabled a prompt inviting the participant to re-join the multiparty communication session.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising enabling media from the particular device in response to at least receiving a re-join request from the particular device.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying to the active participants a list of the active participants.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising identifying the list of active participants to a particular active participant in response to a query by the particular active participant.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein each active participant identifies himself with a secure signal.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the secure signal comprises a password.

5 16. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
determining devices connected to the multiparty communication session streaming voice packets; and
disabling media from each device streaming voice packets and from which no active participant is identified.

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17. A system for controlling audio content during a multiparty communication session, comprising:

means for prompting active participants of a multiparty communication session to identify themselves; and

means for disabling media from a particular device from which no active participant is identified to terminate communication of the media from the particular device to other devices in the multiparty communication session.

18. The system of Claim 17, further comprising means for prompting the active participants to identify themselves a response to at least a request from one of the participants.

19. The system of Claim 17, further comprising means for authenticating the request.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the means for authenticating the request comprises means for authenticating the participant making the request.

21. The system of Claim 17, further comprising means for disabling media from each device from which no active participant is identified.

22. The system of Claim 17, wherein the disabled media comprises on-hold content.

23. The system of Claim 17, further comprising means for receiving a response from at least one active

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participant via a dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF)
command.

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5 24. The system of Claim 17, further comprising
means for utilizing adaptive speech recognition to
identify responses from active participants.

10 25. The system of Claim 17, further comprising
means for filtering out responses from the active
participants to prevent communication of the responses to
the other devices in the multiparty session.

15 26. The system of Claim 17, further comprising
means for periodically playing to the particular device
for which the media is disabled a prompt inviting the
participant to re-join the multiparty communication
session.

20 27. The system of Claim 26, further comprising
means for enabling media from the particular device in
response to at least receiving a re-join request from the
particular device.

25 28. The system of Claim 17, further comprising
means for identifying to the active participants a list
of the active participants.

30 29. The system of Claim 28, further comprising
means for identifying the list of active participants to
a particular active participant in response to a query by
the particular active participant.

A 30. The system of Claim 17, wherein each active participant identifies himself with a secure signal.

5 31. The system of Claim 30, wherein the secure signal comprises a password.

10 32. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:
means for determining devices connected to the multiparty communication session streaming voice packets;
and

means for disabling media from each device streaming voice packets and from which no active participant is identified.

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33. A system for controlling audio content during a multiparty communication session, comprising media encoded in logic and operable to:

prompt active participants of a multiparty communication session to identify themselves; and

~~Disable media from a particular device from which no active participant is identified to terminate communication of the media from the particular device to other devices in the multiparty communication session.~~

34. The system of Claim 33, the logic further operable to prompt the active participants to identify themselves a response to at least a request from one of the participants.

35. The system of Claim 33, the logic further operable to authenticate the request.

36. The system of Claim 35, the logic further operable to authenticate the request by authenticating the participant making the request.

37. The system of Claim 33, the logic further operable to disable media from each device from which no active participant is identified.

38. The system of Claim 33, wherein the disabled media comprises on-hold content.

39. The system of Claim 33, the logic further operable to receive a response from at least one active

~~participant via a dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF)~~
~~command.~~

~~40. The system of Claim 33, the logic further operable to utilize adaptive speech recognition to identify responses from active participants.~~

41. The system of Claim 33, the logic further operable to filter out responses from the active participants to prevent communication of the responses to the other devices in the multiparty session..

42. The system of Claim 33, the logic further operable to periodically play to the particular device for which the media is disabled a prompt inviting the participant to re-join the multiparty communication session.

43. The system of Claim 42, the logic further operable to enable media from the particular device in response to at least receiving a re-join request from the particular device.

44. The system of Claim 33, the logic further operable to identify to the active participants a list of the active participants.

45. The system of Claim 44, the logic further operable to identify the list of active participants to a particular active participant in response to a query by the particular active participant.

A 46. The system of Claim 33, wherein each active participant identifies himself with a secure signal.

5 47. The system of Claim 46, wherein the secure signal comprises a password.

48. The system of Claim 33, the logic further operable to:

10 determine devices connected to the multiparty communication session streaming voice packets; and

disable media from each device streaming voice packets and from which no active participant is identified.

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49. A method for handling on-hold endpoints in a conference call, comprising:

receiving an audio stream from each of a plurality of participants to a conference call;

5 receiving a control signal from a participant to the conference call indicating the conference call is receiving on-hold content from at least one on-hold endpoint;

claim 1¹⁵⁷ prompting each participant to send a reply to a prompt;

claim 1¹⁵⁸ receiving replies from active participants to the conference call; and

claim 1²ⁿ terminating media from devices associated with each participant not sending a reply.

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50. A conference bridge, comprising:

an input buffer operable to receive and buffer audio streams generated by the participants;

a cross-connect operable to cross-connect an audio stream from each participant to conference output stream generators for remaining participants;

the conference stream output generator for each participant operable to combine each audio stream received from the cross-connect multiple independently controlled by the participant and to generate a conference output stream for the participant;

an output buffer operable to receive and buffer the conference output streams for transmission to the participant; and

an on-hold handler operable in response to a participant request to communicate with the participants, to identify active participants and to disable audio streams generated by devices associated with non-active participants.

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